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The Maze











Chapter 1 by E/L R R

After a long day at school, Julie couldn't be more excited to be home, but as she opens the door no one appears to be home. She shrugs it off and goes to the park. Once she gets to the bench where everyday she sits and draws, she saw a note - it was addressed to her.

It said, "If you ever want to see your family again you will go to third street, make a left, enter the alley and not inform the police. To show you our generosity you may bring one person." -J. Smith

Julie turns and runs, but in her panic she runs straight into someone, she steps back to apologize when she realizes it was Sam the new kid that sits next to her in English.

He smiles and says, "My name is Sam, yours is?"

She had never noticed in the past two days how handsome he was . She was baffled, maybe by his warm smile, blonde hair, or big, blue eyes.

"My name is Julie." she says shaking with fear as she sits on the ground where she had slipped

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Julie handed him the note and began to cry. As he read it his eyes got big and he gently pulled her up off the ground.

"I'm coming with you." he said.

All her tears were gone now and she raged.

"No." she said.

"I'm coming, the note says - "

A crowd of Julie's friends rushed towards them. They encircled Julie, and lucky for her, it didn't look like something was wrong, to her friends at least.

'Perfect timing' she thought to herself.

"Who is he?" asked Emily, probably interested in getting his name and number mostly. "Your boy friend-" she was interrupted by Julie's boyfriend, Charlie.

"Is mad." he finished Emily's sentence.

Charlie was really nice and meant well, but hated any guy other than him being near Julie, for he was afraid Julie would no longer be interested in him because he wasn't smart, handsome or popular.

At that moment Sam shoved through the small crowd, and when Charlie tried to intervene, Sam shoved him through the crowd. Sam gently grabbed Julie's arm and marched out of the crowd he glanced at her and his eyes seemed to apologize, but he didn't say a word.

Charlie came up behind Sam and said, "excuse me but-"

"Get lost," he interrupted Charlie "because you are getting on my nerves and I'm not a very nice person when I am mad "said Sam with a subtle smirk on his face.

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"Thanks" she said.

"No problem." he replied

After a minute he asked, "Which hurts worse, betrayal or lies?"

Julie responded, "I'm not sure, probably betrayal."

"I need to tell you something,"he gulped and stared down at his hands, "I work for a man named John Smith. He he kidnapped your parents my mission was to make sure you receive all the ransom notes."

Julie jumped up and yelled at him that he was a monster. He grabbed her wrist, but she pulled it away.

"Just here me out." he pleaded.

"No, how do you expect me to do that." she said bluntly.

Julie started to back towards the door . Sam told her to come back and to not move , but she didn't listen .

"Please Julie I don't want to do this Julie ple-" he began to beg.

The door flew open and people in black suits with guns ran into the house. Sam pulled a gun and pulled Julie into a bedroom and locked the door. He quickly shoved the dresser in front of the door.

"Who are they?" Julie asked confused .

"They are the Centennial TO8721 and they hate me, more than you do." he answered.

"Why," she asked seeming interested, "wait, did you kidnap their family, too!"

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realized that the bullet was meant for her and he jumped in front of it to save her. He took the keys from Julie and turned the car on. As he backed out he pulled off his sweatshirt pressed it to his side and off they went.

Sam drove away from town instead of going to the place where they were supposed to take the unknown ransom. Once they were out of town and in the woods Sam stopped the car.

"Julie, you have to promise me you won't run, if you do run I can't help you." he asked sincerely.

"No, I do not and cannot trust you. Why should I?" she said baffled at his arrogance.

"Well I did just save your life." he stated with agony when he looked at his wound. "And I'm your only chance." he thought to himself.

"I will escape as soon as possible, no matter what." she declared.

"Fine." he replied as he pulled a gun. Julie couldn't believe that he was going to shoot her. He pulled the trigger. He shot something else though, not her, a camera.

He pressed a button on the steering wheel and a metal bar pushed her tightly to the seat as it connected to another bar behind the seat .She tried to push it away, but it didn't budge .He pressed a different button after a few minutes that loosened and completely retracted the bar .He explained that he wouldn't restrain her unless she tried to escape, she nodded . Sam got out of the car and opened Julie's door for her . He sat down under a tree and looked at his side . He groaned as he realized that the bullet was lodged in his side . He pulled off his shirt , and sadly, he was still bleeding .

Julie walked towards him and grabbed his sweatshirt and pressed it against his side, trying to stop the bleeding. He stood up and went to the trunk of the car and handed her a small bag which encased bandages and scissors. Julie was told to pull the bullet out with the scissors. She breathed in then gently tried to pull the bullet out. Sam winced in pain as she ripped the bullet



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After his side was completely wrapped they walked back to the car and Sam put a new shirt on and handed Julie a bag of food. Inside the bag there was chips and a vast variety of fruit. There was also a couple of water bottles. They sat down and ate in silence. After they were done they headed back to the car Julie walking in front of Sam. Once again Sam was driving down the road and randomly stopped. He handed Julie a blindfold and explained that they were going into The Maze and that she couldn't see the entryway because it was dangerous.

It seemed that the blindfold had been on for hours before she was allowed to take it off, but in reality it had only been minutes. Sam gently pulled the blindfold off Julie's head.

"We are here." Sam whispered in Julie's ear as she looked in awe at the endless rows of stone walls that were covered in vines, that randomly ended and started.

"So what do we have to do?" Julie asked.

"We have to get to the middle of the maze before Thursday when the sun sets (three days from now) or else your family dies." he explained.

"Oh, how big is the maze?" she asked hoping it was small.

 $\hbox{``Huge.''} Sam \ answered \ .$

"Well let's get started." she sighed.

"I have a map." he moaned as he accidently hit his side on the car.

He pulled out the map and laid it out on the hood of the car and pointed out that the middle of the maze was where her family was and that it was guarded by multiple guards. They walked towards the entrance of the maze when Sam all of a sudden stops and turns. He walks back to the car and grabs the map off the hood of the car.

"This might help." he says as he walks back to Julie.

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down and rips the map out of Sam's hand. They both screamed and chased the bird, but it was too fast .They both stopped, realizing that there was no way they could catch the bird.

"Well, now we are on our own, I guess." panted Sam as he caught his breath.

"I have an idea," cheered Julie as she pulled out a black expo from her pocket, "every time we turn left write a 'L' for left or a 'R' for right."

They had been turning left than right than straight for hours and Julie's arms were both covered with letters when they stopped. It was getting close to sunset and they were exhausted. They both quickly fell asleep and were wakened by the rising sun. Once again they got up and started walking this time Julie writing on Sam's arms instead of her own. On the wall SEA was painted in a dark reddish color.

"SEA stands for social experiments association." blurted Sam quickly as he saw Julie staring at it.

They walked on and soon made a left that led to a wall of vines, Julie turned around, but Sam walked through the vines.

"Nothing is as it seems." he said with a wide smile as he held back the vines for Julie.

Julie nodded and walked through the vines. Sam quickly got in front of her and walked towards a wooden door. He knocked twice and slowly opened the door. There were two paths one marked Fae's Way and another marked Twilight Caverns.

"Pick a path," said Sam.

"Does it matter?" asked Julie.

"Not really, I'm friends with the Fae and I've been to Twilight Caverns." Sam said Seeming bored as he leaned against the dirt wall.

Julie headed towards Fae's way and slowly walked down the path towards the door. Sam



"No." he responded.

"May I ask why not?" charmingly asked Sam.

"Fine" he said, "but keep her out of the way."

"Of course." replied Sam.

Melilor led them towards the main room which was filled with fae. Sam was now encircled by many of them. A female fae walked over to Julie and introduced herself to Julie as Mabell.

"I don't trust him." said Mabell as she glanced at Sam wearily.

"Why not?" asked Julie curiously.

"He works for our enemy 'SEA'." she said with a disgusted look on her face.

"Then why is he allowed here?" asked Julie.

"Our Queen thinks he can convince his bosses to leave us alone." she sighed.

"He will stab you in the back so he can prosper." Mabell added.

"How-" she was interrupted by Mabell.

"Bye" she said quickly as she saw Sam walking towards them .

"Time to go." Sam said smiling.

"There is no way she is right." Julie told herself as they headed towards the exit.

They were back in the maze and began to make a left when they heard someone scream. It was not a someone it was a something.

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would soon find them, but something was wrong with Julie, she had passed out. He grabbed the vine and slid back to Julie he saw that she had tied herself to the vine so she wouldn't fall. Sam gently grabbed Julie by the waist and cut the vine. He slowly began to climb back to the top of the wall, holding Julie, who was astonishingly light. Thankfully the walls were about 6 feet wide, so he could lay Julie down and he could sit down, too.

The green monster was passing then it stopped. It turned it's head and when it saw nothing it left. Or at least it appeared to leave. It didn't leave it walked towards where Sam was lying about 20 yards in front of Julie. The monster didn't try to climb the stone wall he just stood there. It looked up and Sam slowly inched towards Julie as she began to wake up. The monster walked away as the sun came up.

Julie woke up and Sam rushed her to get up.

"We need to get to your parents before nightfall." Sam said anxiously.

"Wait, what happened?" Julie asked.

"Nothing out of the ordinary, just some monsters almost finding us." he replied sarcastically.

She rolled her eyes, but she knew he was being serious about the monster .He helped her climb down the vines and off they went turning left and right until Sam stopped . Despite Sam stopping Julie kept walking . She didn't realize that it was a cliff. Julie was now holding on to the edge for dear life. Sam walked towards her, but he just laughed . He turned around and walked away laughing .

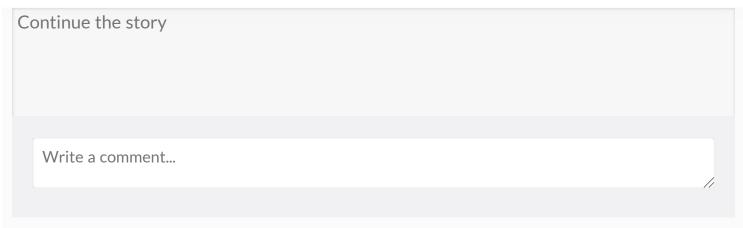
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